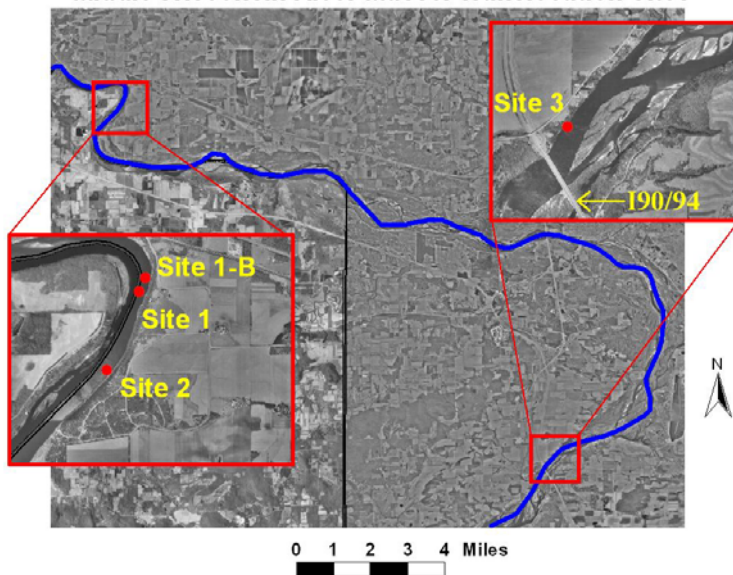


Wisconsin River Mussel Reintroduction

This pilot project involved restoration of the freshwater mussel community in the middle Wisconsin River between Kilbourn dam at Wisconsin Dells and the Prairie du Sac dam. This mussel community was damaged by pollution prior to 1975 with two species extirpated as a result - the state-threatened monkeyface and the state-endangered yellow sandshell. These species are not able to re-establish naturally because the dam creates a barrier to upstream migration for the host fishes of these mussel species. In 2002 and 2003, biologists collected and translocated 448 monkeyface mussels and 280 yellow sandshells mussels to four mussel beds above the Prairie du Sac dam. In addition, 60 fawnsfoot mussels, special concern, were moved as well. Follow-up monitoring in 2004 indicated very successful survival of the monkeyface mussels (93%) and a moderate survival of the yellow sandshells (72%). Too little data was found to analyze the initial survival of the fawnsfoot mussel.

Middle Wisconsin River Mussel Translocation Sites



Monkeyface



Yellow Sandshell



Fawnsfoot